

STATENS SERUMINSTITUT

DIRECTOR: J. ØRSKOV, M. D.
COPENHAGEN S. — DENMARK

TELEPHONE: ASTA 2817

TELEGRAMS: STATSSERUM, COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen, Sept. 25, 1958

Dr. J. Lederberg
Dept. of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Esther & Josh,

Thanks for your card from Bergen; we were glad to hear that you at least in Norway had some nice weather.

The migration of people from the Stockholm congress through our lab is now coming to an end and we are trying to settle down for some work.

✓ As to the F sera which we promised to send, we are a little reluctant to do it just now as some recent experiments have given us some doubt to the effect that what ~~we~~ call F agglutination could be a result of greater autoagglutinability of the F+ colonies. As soon as these experiments are finished and if they make us certain of the existence of ^{an} ~~the~~ amF antibody in our F sera we shall send You a specimen.

As far as we can see from our correspondence we sent You data on a new cross between W3473 F+ × W3703 H₂ on April 26 this year. In the same letter were included data on a cross W3478 × W3703 carried out on EM₂ham. About the new K-factor can be said the following. In the cross W3703 × W3473 all recombinants which have received the O-antigen from the F+ parent are partly inagglutinable in O-serum W1611 and inagglutinable in O-serum O loo. The strain W3703 is fully agglutinable in O-serum W1611. This means that these recombinants have acquired an inagglutinability - factor which according to the definition should be called a K-antigen. This K antigen is not the one found in K+ forms isolated from the parent strains of W3703 and W1611, neither is it the K of the O loo strain.

An OK serum ^{mixed} ~~proved~~ with one of the recombinants having this new K-antigen does not agglutinate either the K+ form of O loo nor the K+ form of W1611. As we told you we are planning to set up new crosses between strains with known L, B and A antigens.

Further we include a more complete and slightly revised table which should replace table 8 in our report.

As far as we can see we can not do more for the moment to complete our share of our joined effort.

With the best wishes to yourself and to friends in Madison

Yours,

Pitts & H₂